

REMARKS

Claims 22 and 24-43 are pending and are presented for reconsideration.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 26, 30, 37 and 43 are merely objected to, the examiner indicating they are directed to allowable subject matter.

The claims have been amended in accord with the current rules in which underlining shows additions and strikethrough shows deletions. No new matter has been added.

Applicants have amended their claims in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim preferred aspects of their invention. Thus, the limits of claim 23 have been incorporated into claim 22. Since claim 22 fails to further limit amended claim 22 it has been presently cancelled. Additionally, in claims 28 and 29 applicants have replaced the term "halogen" by Cl, F" as disclosed in the originally filed description on page 2. No new matter has been added.

Claims 22-25, 27, 31-36 and 38-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 11-50096. Reconsideration is requested in light of the amendment *supra* and the following remarks.

JP 11-50096 discloses granular detergent compositions for automatic dishwashers. Certain ligands that are used in the present US application are also disclosed in this Japanese Patent Application. But there is no disclosure that a Mn(III) complex is used. In Example 4 on page 34, JP uses a Mn(III)/Mn(IV) complex (COMPLEX A) and in Examples 1 – 3, they use a mixture of a pure ligand (LIGAND A; B and C) together with Mn(II)Cl₂. Hence the amended claims are novel with regard to this Japanese Patent Application.

Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cook et al. J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Transactions; Inorganic Chemistry (1976) Vol. 14, pp 1369-1375. Reconsideration is requested in light of the amendment *supra* and the following remarks.

Concerning the Mn(III) and Fe(III) complexes in claim 28 and the ligands of claim 29, the Dalton Journal article discloses ligands wherein the phenyl rings are substituted (beneath the OH) by one X which can be H, NO₂, Cl, Br, CH₃ and OCH₃. The disclaimer at the end of claim 29 excludes the first compound. NO₂, CH₃ and OCH₃ are not within the scope of claim 29. Cl is also disclaimed in claim

29. As noted *supra*, in claims 28 and 29 applicants have replaced the term "halogen" by Cl, F", as disclosed in the originally filed description on page 2. Hence bromine is no longer within the scope of said claims. Therefore claims 28 and 29 are distinguished over the Dalton Journal article.

JP 11-50096 is regarded as the closest prior art for the reasons discussed *supra*. As evidence of the surprising superiority of the present invention, the examiner is requested to consider the enclosed Declaration by Dr. Menno Hazenkamp, an expert in the field of the application of oxidation catalysts in the field of laundry. Applicants aver that, in light of the unexpectedly superior performance of the product according to the invention, the instant claims are also unobvious over JP 11-50096.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all grounds of rejection of claims 22-25, 27-29, 31-36 and 38-42 is respectfully solicited in light of the remarks *supra*.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 22 and 24-43 is earnestly solicited.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time, Declaration

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